

Appln. No.: 09/996,160
Amendment dated April 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action of December 14, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of December 14, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1, 11, 12, 17, 19-21, 24-26, and 30 have been amended, claims 10, 16, 22, 23 and 28 have been canceled, and new claims 31-34 have been added. Claims 1-9, 11-15, 17-21, 24-27, and 29-34 thus remain pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 29 and 30 are allowed, and that claims 23-25 stand objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to also recite similar features as allowed claims 29 and 30.

Rejections

Claims 1-14, 16-21, 26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,859,445 (Moon).

Claims 15 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of allegedly admitted prior art.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of Labonte (U.S. Pat. No. 5,991,286).

Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 10, 16, 22, 23 and 28 have been canceled, rendering the rejection moot with respect to these claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite similar allowable features as allowed claims 29-30, and has amended claims 11 and 12 to provide correct claim dependencies as a result. Applicant has amended claims 17, 19-21, and 24-26 to depend from allowed claim 29. New claims 31-34 depend from allowed claim 30. No new matter has been added. All pending claims are either allowed, allowable, or depend from an allowed or allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, applicant respectfully submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for

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allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at
(202) 824-3153.

Respectfully submitted,
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 4th day of April, 2006

By: /Ross Dannenberg/
Ross Dannenberg, Registration No. 49,024

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001
RAD/mmd